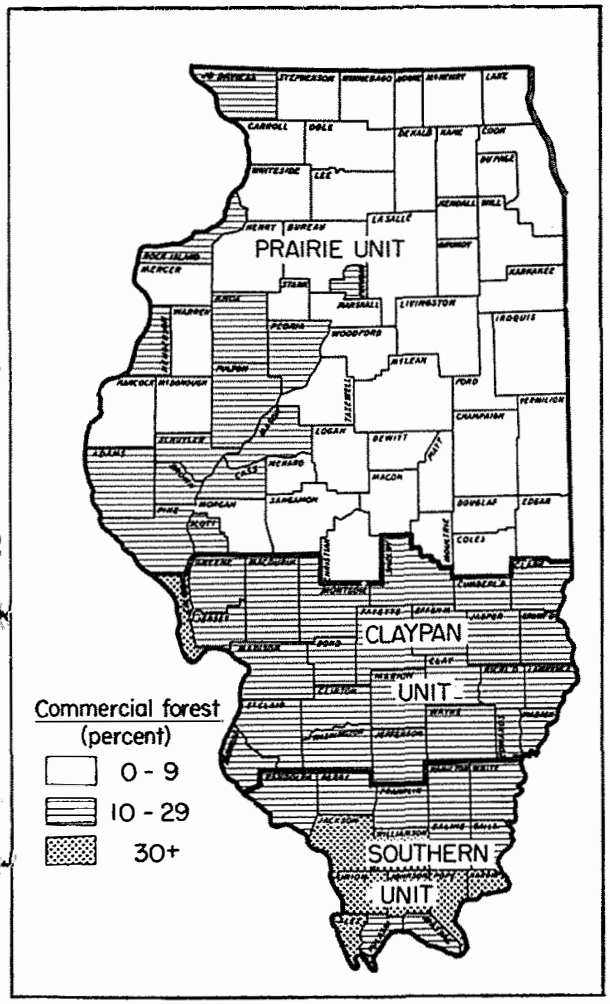
U.S. Forest Service
RESEARCH NOTE
CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
COLUMBUS, OHIO R. D. LANE, DIRECTOR

INTERMOUNTAIN STATION
Central Reference File

CS-21 September 1964

FOREST AREA IN ILLINOIS, BY COUNTIES, 1962

Forest land in Illinois has decreased about 125,000 acres or 3 percent since the previous Forest Survey in 1948. In 1962 forests occupied 3,871,300 acres--11 percent of the State's total land area (table 1). Nearly all of the decline in forest land was in the lightly forested northern half of the State where 248,000 acres were converted to agriculture and other nonforest uses. The largest area reductions were in Pike and Adams Counties.



The more heavily forested southern half of the State showed an increase of about 123,000 acres--36,800 acres or 3 percent more forest in the Claypan Unit and 86,600 acres or 8 percent more in the Southern Unit (fig. 1). The largest increases were found in Pope and Williamson Counties. Nearly two-thirds of the State's forest land is in these two units with the greatest concentration in the southernmost counties.

Nearly all of the forest land in Illinois can produce commercial timber. In 1962 commercial forest land totaled 3,761,400 acres--179,600 acres less than in 1948. In

FIGURE 1.--Commercial forest land area, Illinois, 1962.

CENTRAL FILE COPY

Table 1.--Area of land and forest land, by counties, Illinois, 1962

PRAIRIE UNIT

County	Land[1]	Forest land[2]			Commercial forest as a percent of land area	Changes in total forest since 1948
		All forest	Non-commercial[3]	Commercial[4]		
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent	Thousand acres
Adams	554.2	68.9	2.0	66.9	12.1	- 24.1
Boone	181.1	3.1	--	3.1	1.7	- 2.9
Brown	196.5	38.2	.7	37.5	19.1	- 3.8
Bureau	555.5	25.6	.1	25.5	4.6	- 9.4
Carroll	299.5	21.0	1.2	19.8	6.6	- 1.0
Cass	236.8	32.0	--	32.0	13.5	- 14.0
Champaign	640.0	5.1	--	5.1	.8	- 1.9
Christian	453.8	14.5	--	14.5	3.2	+ 1.5
Coles	324.5	21.2	.7	20.5	6.3	- 1.8
Cook	610.6	28.4	28.4	--	--	- 1.6
DeKalb	407.0	5.7	--	5.7	1.4	+ .7
DeWitt	255.4	9.2	--	9.2	3.6	- 1.8
Douglas	268.8	4.7	--	4.7	1.7	- .3
DuPage	211.8	10.5	--	10.5	5.0	- .5
Edgar	401.9	18.8	--	18.8	4.7	- 4.2
Ford	312.3	1.2	--	1.2	.4	+ .2
Fulton	559.4	88.6	.1	88.5	15.8	- 7.4
Grundy	276.5	11.2	--	11.2	4.0	+ 1.2
Hancock	510.1	49.4	.1	49.3	9.7	+ 3.4
Henderson	243.8	28.6	.1	28.5	11.7	- 6.4
Henry	528.6	15.7	.3	15.4	2.9	- 1.3
Iroquois	718.1	13.6	--	13.6	1.9	+ .6
Jo Daviess	393.0	59.7	.2	59.5	15.1	- .3
Kane	330.3	8.9	--	8.9	2.7	- 1.1
Kankakee	435.2	13.1	1.0	12.1	2.8	- 2.9
Kendall	204.8	4.5	--	4.5	2.2	- 3.5
Knox	465.9	46.5	.1	46.4	10.0	+ 2.5
Lake	292.5	13.9	1.4	12.5	4.3	- 6.1
LaSalle	737.9	31.7	1.8	29.9	4.1	+ 5.7
Lee	466.6	10.0	--	10.0	2.1	+ 1.0
Livingston	667.5	5.3	--	5.3	.8	- 3.7
Logan	398.1	9.4	--	9.4	2.4	- 1.6
McDonough	372.5	26.2	.8	25.4	6.8	- 13.8
McHenry	391.0	13.9	--	13.9	3.6	- 2.1
McLean	750.7	8.7	--	8.7	1.2	- 9.3
Macon	368.6	10.7	.4	10.3	2.8	- 1.3
Marshall	252.8	23.4	--	23.4	9.3	- 4.6
Mason	346.2	35.0	.1	34.9	10.1	- 9.0
Menard	199.7	14.4	.2	14.2	7.1	- .6
Mercer	355.8	24.3	--	24.3	6.8	- 3.7
Morgan	361.6	26.1	--	26.1	7.2	- 3.9
Moultrie	220.8	10.1	--	10.1	4.6	+ 2.1
Ogle	484.5	23.0	.5	22.5	4.6	- 6.0
Peoria	399.4	39.2	.1	39.1	9.8	- 12.8
Piatt	279.7	4.9	--	4.9	1.8	- 2.1
Pike	530.6	72.8	.1	72.7	13.7	- 24.2
Putnam	106.2	12.8	--	12.8	12.1	- 5.2
Rock Island	268.8	29.5	.2	29.3	10.9	- 4.5
Sangamon	563.2	23.2	--	23.2	4.1	- .8
Schuyler	277.8	58.6	.1	58.5	21.1	- 10.4
Scott	160.6	19.1	--	19.1	11.9	- 1.9
Stark	186.2	5.0	--	5.0	2.7	- 1.0
Stephenson	363.5	11.6	.4	11.2	3.1	- 4.4
Tazewell	417.9	23.4	.5	22.9	5.5	- 14.6
Vermilion	574.7	25.5	1.1	24.4	4.2	- 3.5
Warren	346.9	19.6	--	19.6	5.7	- 5.4
Whiteside	441.6	14.3	--	14.3	3.2	- 1.7
Will	540.8	20.3	--	20.3	3.8	- 2.7
Winnebago	332.8	15.5	--	15.5	4.7	- 6.5
Woodford	343.7	20.6	--	20.6	6.0	- 9.4
Total	23,376.6	1,349.9	42.7	1,307.2	5.6	-248.1

CLAYPAN UNIT

County	Land[1]	Forest land[2]			Commercial forest as a percent of land area	Changes in total forest since 1948
		All forest	Non-commercial[3]	Commercial[4]		
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent	Thousand acres
Bond	245.1	35.7	0.5	35.2	14.4	- 1.3
Calhoun	165.8	60.7	.9	59.8	36.1	- 11.3
Clark	323.2	68.5	1.6	66.9	20.7	+ 10.5
Clay	297.0	47.1	.7	46.4	15.6	+ 1.1
Clinton	318.7	52.1	.7	51.4	16.1	- 9.9
Crawford	282.9	47.4	.7	46.7	16.5	+ 7.4
Cumberland	221.4	37.8	.5	37.3	16.8	+ 7.8
Edwards	144.0	19.7	.3	19.4	13.5	- .3
Effingham	308.5	54.5	.8	53.7	17.4	+ 7.5
Fayette	459.5	94.5	2.2	92.3	20.1	+ 10.5
Greene	347.5	54.8	.8	54.0	15.5	+ .8
Jasper	316.8	44.1	.6	43.5	13.7	+ 8.1
Jefferson	367.4	65.6	.9	64.7	17.6	+ 4.6
Jersey	239.4	55.6	3.1	52.5	21.9	- 10.4
Lawrence	239.4	43.5	1.3	42.2	17.6	+ 9.5
Macoupin	558.1	83.1	1.5	81.6	14.6	- 11.9
Madison	467.8	54.2	.9	53.3	11.4	- 2.8
Marion	371.2	72.7	1.0	71.7	19.3	+ 10.7
Monroe	243.2	52.0	.7	51.3	21.1	- 6.0
Montgomery	451.8	48.1	.7	47.4	10.5	+ 2.1
Richland	233.0	37.6	.5	37.1	15.9	+ 7.6
St. Clair	428.8	58.3	.7	57.6	13.4	+ 3.3
Shelby	494.1	62.8	.9	61.9	12.5	+ 7.8
Wabash	141.4	19.2	.3	18.9	13.4	+ 5.2
Washington	361.6	51.7	.7	51.0	14.1	- 11.3
Wayne	457.5	71.5	1.1	70.4	15.4	- 2.5
Total	8,485.1	1,392.8	24.6	1,368.2	16.1	+ 36.8

SOUTHERN UNIT

Alexander	143.4	67.6	4.0	63.6	44.4	+ 0.6
Franklin	277.8	55.0	1.2	53.8	19.4	- 7.0
Gallatin	209.9	54.9	2.3	52.6	25.1	- .1
Hamilton	278.4	54.4	1.2	53.2	19.1	+ 1.4
Hardin	117.1	55.3	1.0	54.3	46.4	+ 10.3
Jackson	385.9	134.7	4.4	130.3	33.8	+ 11.7
Johnson	220.8	84.0	2.6	81.4	36.9	+ 5.0
Massac	157.4	42.1	2.1	40.0	25.4	- 1.9
Perry	283.5	61.1	1.4	59.7	21.1	+ .1
Pope	243.8	146.5	7.0	139.5	57.2	+ 46.5
Pulaski	130.6	30.6	.6	30.0	23.0	- 3.4
Randolph	380.1	74.6	1.8	72.8	19.2	- 10.4
Saline	245.8	51.0	1.1	49.9	20.3	+ 8.0
Union	265.0	97.2	9.3	87.9	33.2	- 3.8
White	320.6	36.7	.8	35.9	11.2	+ 6.7
Williamson	273.4	82.9	1.8	81.1	29.7	+ 22.9
Total	3,933.5	1,128.6	42.6	1,086.0	27.6	+ 86.6
State total	35,795.2	3,871.3	109.9	3,761.4	10.5	-124.7

1/ 1960 Bureau of Census.

2/ Land at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover, and not currently developed for nonforest use. Does not include land currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or thickly settled residential or resort areas, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pastureland. The minimum area classified as forest land was 1 acre. Roadside, streamside, and shelterbelt strips of timber with crown width of 120 feet qualified as forest land. Unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forest areas were classified as forest if less than 120 feet in width.

3/ Non-commercial forest land includes unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions and productive public forest land such as parks and preserves withdrawn from commercial timber use through statute or administrative regulation.

4/ Forest land, not withdrawn from timber utilization, which is producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood.

the Prairie Unit, 6 percent of the total land area is commercial forest land; in the Claypan Unit, 16 percent; and in the Southern Unit, 28 percent. Eight counties, Fayette, Fulton, Jackson, Johnson, Macoupin, Pope, Union, and Williamson, each contain more than 80,000 acres of commercial forest. Pope County is the most heavily forested county in the State. It contains more than 139,000 acres of commercial forest land which covers about 57 percent of the total land area in the county.

There are 110,000 acres of forest land that are not producing commercial timber crops. They represent less than 3 percent of the total forest area in the State. This is forest land that is either reserved from timber cutting, such as State parks and recreation areas, or incapable of producing industrial wood crops because of adverse site conditions, such as rocky outcrops and swampland. Though not producing timber for the market, this noncommercial forest land adds to the wildlife and recreational resources of Illinois.

The sampling error of forest land for the State is about 2.4 percent at one standard deviation. Commercial forest land has a similar error of 2.8 percent. Sampling error is greater for small areas such as survey units and counties than for the State as a whole. Forest areas smaller than 24,000 acres have an error in excess of 30 percent. Although subject to large error, estimates of county areas represent the best available information and will serve as a guide for management of resources.

This note presents part of the results of the second Forest Survey of Illinois conducted in 1961 and 1962 by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with cooperation from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the same Department; from the Forestry Division, Illinois Department of Conservation; and from the Department of Forestry, University of Illinois. Other reports will follow presenting additional statistics for the timber resource and its use.

Burton L. Essex, research forester
Lake States Forest Experiment Station
St. Paul, Minnesota

David A. Gansner, research forester
Central States Forest Experiment Station
Columbus, Ohio